

IN THE CLAIMS:

On page 16 line 1, please delete the current heading "CLAIMS" and insert the following new heading:

--What is claimed is:--.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A fluid power controller device comprising valve modules (2) arranged in sequence in a row direction (3) and collected together as an array-like unit (9), such modules each including a principal valve (13) fitted with at least one moving valve member (16) and at least one electrically operated valve drive (14) for the principal valve (13), characterized in that at least two valve modules (2) placed in sequence in the row direction (3) are spaced apart with the formation of an intermediate space (5), a diagnostic module (4) being placed in the intermediate space (5) for the detection of at least one operational state of one or both of the adjacent principal valves (13).
2. (Currently Amended) The controller device as set forth in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein between all sequentially following modules (2) a respective diagnostic module (4) is arranged.
3. (Currently Amended) The controller device as set forth in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein between sequentially following valve modules (2) in alternate succession in one case a diagnostic module (4) for diagnosis of the two respective adjacent principal valves (13) and in the other case no diagnostic module (4) is provided.

4. (Currently Amended) The controller device as set forth in ~~any one of the claims claim 1 through 3, characterized in that~~ wherein the diagnostic module (4) does extend past the outline of the respectively adjacent valve module (2).

5. (Currently Amended) The controller device as set forth in ~~any one of the claims claim 1 through 4, characterized in that~~ wherein the valve modules (2) and the diagnostic module or modules (4) are connected with a joint electrical concatenation means (37), which leads to a central electronic control (42) located on board the controller device and/or to an electromechanical interface (~~38 and 38a~~), more especially a plug means.

6. (Currently Amended) The controller device as set forth in ~~any one of the claims claim 1 through 5, characterized in that~~ wherein the valve modules (2) and the at least one diagnostic module (4) are collected together by a mechanical connection, as for example by means of ties (8), to constitute a self-supporting assembly.

7. (Currently Amended) The controller device as set forth in ~~any one of the claims claim 1 through 6, characterized in that~~ wherein for the central supply and/or removal of pressure medium to and, respectively, from the valve modules (2) at least one fluid duct (24) is present extending through all valve modules (2) and diagnostic modules (4) in the row direction (3), such fluid duct being composed of aligned ducts (~~28a and 28b~~) of the valve modules (2) and of the diagnostic modules (4), adjacent valve and diagnostic modules (~~2 and 4~~) being placed together in a sealing manner.

8. (Currently Amended) The controller device as set forth in ~~any one of the claims claim 1 through 6, characterized in that~~ wherein the valve modules (2) and the at least one diagnostic module (4) are seated on a rail-like or plate-like module support (12), in which there extends at least one fluid duct (24) provided for the central supply and/or removal of pressure medium to and, respectively, from the valve modules (2).

9. (Currently Amended) The controller device as set forth in ~~any one of the claims claim 1 through 8, characterized in that~~ wherein at least one diagnostic module (4) is designed in a disk-like or plate-like form.

10. (Currently Amended) The controller device as set forth in ~~any one of the claim claim 1 through 9, characterized in that~~ wherein at least one diagnostic module (4) for detection of the at least one operational condition of the principal valve (13) to be diagnosed is provided with sensor means (33) adapted for the output sensor signals.

11. (Currently Amended) The controller device as set forth in claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one diagnostic module (4) possesses position sensor means (33a) for the detection of one or more switching positions of the valve member (16) of the at least one adjacent principal valve (13).

12. (Currently Amended) The controller device as set forth in claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the position sensor means (33a) possesses proximity sensors able to be activated without contact and more particularly sensors of an inductive type.

13. (Currently Amended) The controller device as set forth in claim 11 ~~or in claim 12, characterized in that~~ wherein the position sensor means (33b) are designed for optical switching position detection.

14. (Currently Amended) The controller device as set forth in ~~any one of the claims claim 10 through 13, characterized in that~~ wherein at least one diagnostic module (4) possesses pressure sensor means (33e) for the detection of one or more fluid pressures obtaining in at least one adjacent principal valve.

15. (Currently Amended) The controller device as set forth in claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pressure sensor means (33e) are adapted for the detection of the supply pressure in the respective principal valve (13) and/or at least one working pressure.

16. (Currently Amended) The controller device as set forth in ~~any one of claims claim 10 through 15, characterized in that~~ wherein the principal valve (13) to be diagnosed comprises at least one access opening (34) rendering possible access by the sensor means (33) for desired state information, such opening (34) being open toward the diagnostic module (4) and being covered by the respective diagnostic module (4).

17. (Currently Amended) The controller device as set forth in ~~any one of claims claim 10 through 16, characterized in that~~ wherein at least one diagnostic module (4) possesses evaluating electronic circuitry (36) for the sensor signals supplied by the sensor means (33).

18. (Currently Amended) The controller device as set forth in ~~any one of claims claim 1 through 17, characterized in that~~ wherein at least one diagnostic module (4) possesses state indicating means (46), more particularly optical indicating means.